



onboard

The latest news from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade & Palm Beach counties.

“DOING THE MATH” PROVES VALUE OF RIDING TRI-RAIL

The price of getting to work is rising again - with gas prices soaring and highway tolls increasing. Many South Florida drivers are tired of shelling out big bucks for their commute and are seeking alternate means of transportation to cut costs and save big. One South Floridian who is saving big is Victor Cooper, a Tri-Rail passenger of more than five years. Cooper is one contented passenger who knows the value of his commute, and on a recent afternoon, Cooper was overheard telling a first-time Tri-Rail rider how he benefits from riding the rails.

“If I drove from the Miami Airport Station to Pompano Beach every day it would cost me about \$600 a month,” said Cooper. “Instead, I buy an Employer Discount Program Ticket for \$60 and take the train on days when my job with the State of Florida Property Appraiser keeps me in the office.”

Cooper takes the recent delays due to construction, and excess traffic on the South Florida Rail Corridor, in stride. He realizes that progress oftentimes means growing pains, as he looks to the future of Tri-Rail optimistically.

“Tri-Rail is making changes and it’s going to get better. You can’t get to the next level without a few bumps and bruises in any changing organization.”

While no one can deny that the commute on Tri-Rail has had more than its share of growing pains over the past few months, it

still remains the most economical way to traverse the county lines to get to work, or for leisure activities.

South Florida Commuter Services, the Florida Department of Transportation-sponsored resource for transportation options and solutions, has initiated a program on its website that can actually calculate the cost of commuting and show passengers how much they save by riding Tri-Rail. The “Calculate Cost Savings” feature, available on the Home Page of the SFCS website at www.1800234RIDE.com, is quick and simple. The information required to complete the calculation includes:

- **How many miles is your daily commute (roundtrip)?**
- **How many days-per-month do you normally work?**
- **How many miles-per-gallon does your automobile average?**
- **How much per gallon do you normally pay for gasoline?**
- **How much do you pay for monthly parking?**
- **How much do you pay per month on toll charges?**



Take the Tri-Rail challenge and see how much you’re saving every month. The results can be astonishing. Paul McDermott, another Tri-Rail passenger and long-time rider said, “I put my kids through college on what I saved by riding Tri-Rail.”

The SFCS program will yield a breakdown of costs by the month or by the year. Cost-per-mile estimates are based on the American Automobile Association’s, “Your Driving Costs 2002.” Your savings might not pay for a college education, but they will certainly make a difference at the end of every month.

“SACANDO CUENTAS” PRUEBA QUE VALE LA PENA VIAJAR EN TRI-RAIL

Ha vuelto a subir el costo para ir a trabajar, con los precios de la gasolina al alza al igual que los peajes en las carreteras en aumento. Muchos conductores del Sur de la Florida están ya cansados de desembolsar tanto dinero para viajar al trabajo y están buscando medios alternos de transporte para reducir los costos y poder ahorrar en grande. Un residente del sur de la Florida que está ahorrando mucho es Víctor Cooper, un pasajero de Tri-Rail por más de cinco años. El señor Cooper es un pasajero feliz que conoce el valor de su viaje en tren y, una tarde no hace mucho tiempo atrás, se escuchó al señor Cooper diciéndole a un pasajero nuevo de Tri-Rail como se beneficiaba por viajar en tren.

“Si yo viajase en automóvil desde la Estación del Aeropuerto de Miami hasta Pompano Beach todos los días, me costaría unos \$600 al mes”, dijo el señor Cooper. “En cambio, compro un Boleto del Programa de Descuentos para Empleados por \$60 y tomo el tren en los días cuando mi trabajo en el Tasador de la Propiedad del Estado de la Florida me mantiene en la oficina.”

El señor Cooper se toma con calma las recientes demoras debido a la construcción y el exceso de tránsito en el Corredor Ferroviario del Sur de la Florida. Él se da cuenta de que el progreso a menudo significa problemas iniciales dado que él mira hacia el futuro de Tri-Rail de manera optimista.

“Tri-Rail está haciendo cambios y va a mejorar. Uno no puede llegar al próximo nivel sin unos pocos tropiezos y chichones en cualquier organización en proceso de cambios.”

A pesar de que nadie puede negar que el viaje en Tri-Rail haya tenido demasiados problemas iniciales durante los últimos pocos meses, aún sigue siendo la manera más económica de atravesar las líneas del condado para ir al trabajo o para las actividades de descanso.

Los Servicios al Pasajero del Sur de la Florida, recurso para las opciones y soluciones en transporte patrocinado por el Departamento de Transporte de la Florida, ha iniciado un programa en su Página Web que puede calcular el costo real de viajar al trabajo y mostrarle a los pasajeros cuánto ahorran por viajar en Tri-Rail. La característica de “Cálculo de Ahorros en Costos”, disponible en la Página Web Inicial del Sitio Web de Servicios al Pasajero del Sur de la Florida, en www.1800234RIDE.com, es rápida y simple. La información requerida para completar el cálculo, incluye:

- ¿De cuántas millas consta su viaje diario (viaje de ida y vuelta)?
- ¿Cuántos días al mes normalmente trabaja usted?
- ¿Cuántas millas por galón gasta su automóvil como promedio?
- ¿Cuánto paga usted normalmente por galón de gasolina?
- ¿Cuánto paga usted por el estacionamiento mensual?
- ¿Cuánto paga usted al mes en cargos de peaje?

Acepte el reto de Tri-Rail y vea cuánto está ahorrando todos los meses. Los resultados pueden ser asombrosos.

El señor Paul McDermott, otro pasajero de Tri-Rail que hace mucho tiempo que viaja en tren dijo, “Les he pagado la educación universitaria a mis hijos con lo que me he ahorrado por viajar en Tri-Rail.”

El programa de los Servicios al Pasajero del Sur de la Florida le dará un desglose de los costos por mes o por año. Los estimados de costo por milla están basados en “Sus Costos por Conducir del 2002” de la Asociación Americana de Automóviles. Sus ahorros podrían no pagar por una educación universitaria, pero ciertamente harán notar la diferencia al final de cada mes.

“DOING THE MATH” BAY PRÈV VALÈ MONTE TRI-RAIL

Pri pou al travay ap monte ankò, avèk pri gaz ki an demon ak tòl ki dechennen. Anpil chofè nan Sid Laflorid bouke jete lajan pou transpò; y’ap chèche lòt mwayen fè ekonomi epi sere plis lajan. Yon moun Sid Laflorid ki fè bon jan ekonomi se Victor Cooper, yon pasaje Tri-Rail passenger depi plis pase senkan.

Cooper se yon pasaje ki gen kè kontan paske li konnen valè transpò-li, epi sa pa fè trò lontan, yon apremidi, yo te tande Cooper k’ap di yon moun ki t’ap pran Tri-Rail pou premye fwa avantaj ki genyen nan monte tren-an.

“Si pou m’ te kondwi sòti Estasyon Ayewopò Miami-a rive Pompano Beach chak jou, sa t’ap koute mwen apeprè \$600 pa mwa,” Cooper te di. “Olye de sa, mwen achte yon Tikè Pwogram Rabè pou Anplwaye-a pou \$60 epi mwen pran tren-an jou mwen oblije rete nan biwo-mwen pou travay mwen nan State of Florida Property Appraiser.”

Cooper pran pasyans sèjousi poutèt konstriksyon ak blokis ki genyen nan Koridò Chemennfè Sid Laflorid-la. Li konnen ke pwogrè mande sakrifis souvan, epi li optimis pou sa ki konsène fiti Tri-Rail.

“Tri-Rail ap fè chanjman epi bagay-yo pwal pi bon. Nan nenpòt ki òganizasyon k’ap chanje, ou pa ka al pi devan san ti kase tèt.”

Malgre pèsòn pa ka di transpò nan Tri-Rail pa gen ti deranjman depi detwa mwa, li rete fason pi ekonomik pou travèse liy konte-yo pou al travay, oswa pou plezi.

Resous pou opsyon ak solisyon pou transpò ke Sèvis Transpò Sid Laflorid Depatman Transpò Laflorid-la sponsorize, mete sou pye yon pwogram sou sit Entènèt li-a ki kapab kalkile kou transpò-a epi montre pasaje kantite lajan yo ka ekonomize lè yo monte Tri-Rail. Opsyon “Doing the Math [Kalkile Ekonomi]” a, ki disponib sou Paj Dakèy sit Entènèt SFCS-a nan www.1800234RIDE.com, rapid epi senp. Men enfòmasyon ki nesesè pou fè kalkil-la:

- Ki kantite mil ou fè chak jou (ale-tounen)?
- Dabitid, konbyen jou pa mwa ou travay?
- Apeprè konbyen mil pa galon machin-ou ka fè?
- Konbyen lajan pa galon ou abitye depanse pou gaz?
- Konbyen ou peye chak mwa pou pakin?
- Konbyen kòb ou peye pa mwa pou sa yo rele tòl?

Pran defi Tri-Rail-la epi gade ki kantite lajan ou ekonomize chak mwa. Rezilta-yo ka fè-ou sezi. Paul McDermott, yon lòt pasaje Tri-Rail ki gen lontan l’ap kondwi, di “Mwen voye pitit mwen nan kolèj grasa lajan mwen ekonomize nan monte Tri-Rail.”

Pwogram Sèvis Transpò Sid Laflorid-la ap dekri jan kou-yo desann pa mwa oswa pa ane. Estimasyon kou pa mil-yo baze sou “Kou Kondwit 2002-ou” Asosyasyon Otomobil Ameriken-an. Lajan ou ekonomize-a gen dwa pa peye pou yon edikasyon nan kolèj, men l’ap fè yon diferans alafen chak mwa.



“TRAIN SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK” VOLUNTEERS HONORED

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority recently honored 162 volunteers who gave hundreds of hours of their time to promote the Operation Lifesaver message of “Look, Listen and Live” during Train Safety Awareness Week in April. In a four-day-long “safety blitz” at highway-rail grade crossings throughout Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, the volunteers distributed more than 418 citations and 11,200 informational flyers to drivers and pedestrians. Additionally, approximately three million South Floridians heard the Operation Lifesaver message loud and clear via local news coverage of the Train Safety Awareness Week events.

Among those honored were the police departments of Aventura, Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Clark Shores, Lake Worth, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and West Palm Beach; the Broward Sheriff’s Office; the SFRTA; Herzog Transportation Services Inc. and the Northeast Miami-Dade Community Traffic Safety Team. The ceremony was emceed by Mike Elias, the South Florida coordinator for Operation Lifesaver.

Governor Jeb Bush declared the first “Train Safety Awareness Week” in 2003 due to Florida’s high ranking among states with vehicular and trespasser train fatalities. The number of fatalities has dropped each year since the governor launched the program.

Representatives from participating organizations gathered to accept praise for their commitment to Operation Lifesaver.



BUS OPERATOR WINS FIRST PLACE AT MEGA BUS ROADEO

Broward County Transit is pleased to announce that Rendol Whidden III, a BCT bus operator, is the new 2005 Florida State Operations Bus Roadeo Champion. Whidden won first place at the 2005 Mega Roadeo, hosted by BCT on May 21 at its Copans Road facility in Pompano Beach. This is the sixth consecutive year that Whidden has won the state Roadeo competition, and he has won seven consecutive years at the local Roadeo competition. Whidden will go on to compete in the American Public Transportation Association International Bus Roadeo, which will be held next year in California.

The Roadeo course is designed to test every phase of operations that a bus operator encounters in normal driving conditions, with 11 different obstacles that test the driver’s ability to negotiate left and right turns, passenger stops, and judgment problems.

For more information, contact customer service at 954-357-8400 or visit the web site at www.broward.org/bct.



Broward County Transit Representatives featured left to right: Director Robert Roth; Bus Operator Rendol Whidden III, Florida State Operations Bus Roadeo Champion and Assistant Director Lorraine Smith.

“COMMUTER CHALLENGE” GOT THOUSANDS TO SHARE THE RIDE

South Florida Commuter Services, the regional commuter assistance program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, challenged South Florida businesses and employees to participate in “Clean Air Month” activities with an official “Commuter Challenge.” This first-time effort was a huge success with as many as 4,500 eager participants.

Many public and private organizations were asked to promote this day to their employees, encouraging them to “just say no” to high gas prices by leaving their cars at home and choosing to carpool, ride the bus and train, or even bike or walk to work. Prize incentives for an individual, public entity and private business made the challenge even more exciting.

Palm Beach County resident Della Henderson took the challenge and carpooled to work for the first time. She was randomly selected to win \$1,000 worth of free gas cards.

Encouraging the largest number of “Commuter Challenge” participants, the City of Boca Raton and the Four Seasons Hotel in Miami were selected to receive \$1,000 worth of transportation demand management options such as transit passes, SunPasses or bicycle racks.

South Florida Commuter Services provides assistance to area residents, businesses and municipalities, offering a variety of free services including carpool and vanpool ride-matching, the Emergency Ride Home program and the Commuter Tax Benefit program. To learn more about South Florida Commuter Services visit www.1800234RIDE.com or call 1-800-234-RIDE (7433).



Palm Beach County resident Della Henderson accepts her “Commuter Challenge” award from Project Director Jim Udvardy of South Florida Commuter Services.



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CUSTOMER SERVICE
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South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail
800 NW 33rd Street, Suite 100
Pompano Beach, Florida 33064

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GO.MIAMIDADE.GOV:

A New Gateway to Transportation

Flight times, traffic updates, bus routes and much, much more. A new easy-to-use website offers one-stop shopping for all the information you need in order to get around.

Go.miamidade.gov features direct links to public transportation schedules, online SunPass and transit pass sales, tourist information and even a live look at traffic on Interstate 95.

Miami-Dade Transit partnered with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail, Broward County Transit, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and other travel-related agencies to create this online gateway to transportation information.



GOVERNOR APPOINTS GEORGE MORGAN, JR. TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prominent real estate broker and developer George Morgan, Jr., founder and president of Morgan Property Group, LLC, which includes Morgan Real Estate Inc., Florida Investment Partners Inc. and Mid-Atlantic Commercial Properties, LLC, was named to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors as

Governor Jeb Bush's appointee. Mr. Morgan will serve on the SFRTA Board of Directors for a term effective June 7, 2005 and ending August 1, 2007.

With approximately 30 years of experience in the real estate industry, Mr. Morgan has focused his companies' efforts on small and medium-sized office buildings, shopping centers and mixed-use projects, with a particular emphasis on build-to-suit projects for such nationally credited tenants as Publix, Walgreens, Eckerd/CVS, Blockbuster, McDonald's, Wendy's, KFC, Bank of America, Region's Bank and Starbuck's.

Mr. Morgan currently serves on the Florida Governmental Affairs Committee of the International Council of Shopping Centers, serves as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee for the Broward Workshop and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery and Science.

Mr. Morgan graduated from Washington and Lee University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce and moved to South Florida in 1971, after serving as First Lieutenant in the United States Army for two years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Mr. Morgan currently resides in Fort Lauderdale.